

March 22, 2020

Dear Grade 12 students and families:

As shared in communication from our Regional Centre, we are engaged in Learning Continuity Planning. This letter is specifically about our strategy to ensure Grade 12 students have technology for online learning. Together we must ensure a safe and healthy approach to distributing e-tools to our Grade 12 students. We will be doing this from March 23 – Friday March 27. We are working on a student learning plan for those students without access to Internet or limited Internet. More details will be forthcoming in the near future.

Access to Nova Scotia schools between March 23-27 will be by appointment only. Students will not be able to access lockers unless they are retrieving technology devices. Textbooks will not be required for Grade 12 students while schools are closed.

**We are counting on you – *students and families* – to ensure we meet the standards established by the Nova Scotia Medical Officer of Health.** Specifically:

- If you have travelled outside Nova Scotia, you must self-isolate for 14 days beginning from the day when you return to Nova Scotia
- No one can come to the school if they have COVID-19 symptoms of high fever and cough
- Students cannot come to the school for any reason other than to pick-up portable technology for themselves for continued learning, or for a fellow Grade 12 student who is in self-isolation or quarantine.
- Only Grade 12 students can enter the building as it supports limiting congregating and they know best their path in the school. Family members can wait in their cars or outside the building, as long as social distancing protocol is followed
- As long as schools maintain social distance (two metres or approximately six feet) at all times you can have more than five people in the building.
- Students must follow the specific instructions to show up only at the appointment time, only pickup technology as planned and follow all instructions to limit time in the school.

**Essential question: Do you currently have access to technology at home for your continued learning?**

- If you do, please know we will be sharing plans with you later in the week. Your patience is incredibly important at this time. Please wait for information coming this week.

- **If you do NOT** (and **ONLY** if you do not), the following information is for you.

**Here are the details:**

- Can I get my laptop that I left at school or borrow one from the school?
  - You can make an appointment to come in and pick up technology you have left behind or borrow a chromebook from us.

**Here's how:**

If you need to borrow a Chromebook or retrieve your technology from your locker you will need to email your vice principal. In the email, please state whether you need a device or whether you are getting it from your locker.

Students with surnames A-G, please email Mr. Betuik. ([pbetuik@hrce.ca](mailto:pbetuik@hrce.ca))

Students with surnames H-M, please email Mr. MacKay. ([bmackay@hrce.ca](mailto:bmackay@hrce.ca))

Students with surnames N-Z, please email Ms. Martin. ([nmartin@hrce.ca](mailto:nmartin@hrce.ca))

Once we have the number of Chromebooks required, we will organize ways for you to pick up a device. Please check your email regularly.

- Can I come in for books, notes or other things in my locker?
  - No.
- Can I pick up things (i.e. technology, books, things in locker) for other people?
  - It is possible that a fellow Grade 12 student is under self-quarantine because of being out of the country. Please assist them to acquire technology.
  - Otherwise, no.
- What should I do now?
  - Book an appointment following the process above.

- What should I do when I arrive?
  - Please only arrive at your appointment time. We must prevent people from congregating anywhere, including at front door.
  - You will only be allowed in the building at appointment time.
  - Go directly to get technology.
  - Exit through the designated door as instructed by your vice principal
  
- Why all the fuss?
  - We are in the midst of a serious pandemic. Our collective action is the best way to support our entire community's health. What each of us does in this moment is really important - we are counting on everyone to strictly follow this plan. Together, we can! We've got this!
  
- Is it that serious?
  - Yes!
  - To ensure the health of your friends, your family and our community, we need everyone to come to the school following the highest health standards.
  - One way to think about this is to **IMAGINE** that you have COVID-19 and **TAKE ACTION** to prevent spreading the virus.
    - Touch only what you must.
    - Maintain social distance – keep away from others by at least 6 feet (2 metres).
    - Get in on time. Pick up your tech. Leave right away.
  
- If I am there anyway, can I empty my locker?
  - No, that is not what we are intending to do. We are counting on everyone supporting a limited and focused plan to gear-up Grade 12 students, while maintaining direction from the Medical Officer of Health.

Please discuss this plan at home together. Here are some things to talk about, and things to

reinforce.

<b>Please consider</b>	<b>Please reinforce</b>
Most teenagers want to be social.	<b>This is not the time for that.</b>
Many teenagers may think this can't affect them.	<b>Help them understand the impact to us all.</b>
Many teenagers may plan to come with friends.	<b>Help them NOT do this and maintain social distance.</b>
Most teenagers will have lots of questions.	<b>The only focus at this time is need to gear-up with tech.</b>
Most teenagers have personal items they want.	<b>This is not the time for that.</b>
<i>We all benefit from reminders of health practices.</i>	<b><i>Talk about attached flyer, especially before appointment</i></b>

Please know we will be communicating regularly with you. Please actively support the very narrow focus of this plan for the continued health, safety and education in our community.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Bird

Principal